

valuable statement. He is a highly valued member of the Armed Services Committee and comments coming from him will have an impact on this body. I am grateful.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of William J. Lynn, III, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense?

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, have the yeas and nays been ordered?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have not been ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of William J. Lynn, III, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Akaka	Ensign	Merkley
Alexander	Enzi	Mikulski
Barrasso	Feingold	Murkowski
Baucus	Feinstein	Murray
Bayh	Gillibrand	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Bennet	Hagan	Pryor
Bennett	Harkin	Reed
Bingaman	Hatch	Reid
Bond	Hutchison	Risch
Boxer	Inhofe	Roberts
Brown	Inouye	Rockefeller
Brownback	Isakson	Sanders
Bunning	Johanns	Schumer
Burr	Johnson	Sessions
Burris	Kaufman	Shaheen
Byrd	Kerry	Shelby
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Snowe
Cardin	Kohl	Specter
Carper	Kyl	Stabenow
Casey	Landrieu	Tester
Chambliss	Lautenberg	Thune
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Collins	Levin	Udall (NM)
Conrad	Lieberman	Vitter
Corker	Lincoln	Voinovich
Crapo	Lugar	Warner
DeMint	Martinez	Webb
Dodd	McCain	Whitehouse
Dorgan	McConnell	Wicker
Durbin	Menendez	Wyden

NAYS—4

Coburn	Grassley
Cornyn	McCaskill

NOT VOTING—2

Gregg

Kennedy

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative action.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate go into a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE STIMULUS

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I wish to speak briefly. I know my friend from Oklahoma is going to come back and speak, but I wish to make a couple comments. I know there has been a deal reached on the stimulus bill. I wish to make a couple comments about that.

We have not received the bill. There are rumors going around about this, that, and the other. One of the details that seems to be coming out is that the housing portion of the stimulus bill has been cut down dramatically.

I had an alternative to the stimulus bill that focused on housing, to a great degree, and also targeted some tax cuts to families and small businesses to create jobs. The reason we focused a great deal of it on the housing problem was because the housing problem is the cancer that has dragged the rest of the economy down. It has spread throughout the rest of the economy.

As any person in the medical field understands that if you just treat the symptoms and not the underlying cause, the patient gets sicker and sicker. Unfortunately, the President is talking about fixing housing but certainly not at this point.

It is regrettable that we didn't take a big portion of the money that is being spent in this stimulus bill and actually fix housing. It is very disturbing because we are going to spend \$800 billion and who knows how much more in order to fix the housing problem. We are running up debt after debt on our children. This is their credit card we are running up, and they are going to have to pay higher taxes into the future.

Once we get the bill, we are going to have to take a close look over the next day or two and go through it. It is very disappointing, it appears, that this stimulus bill is going to do very little, if anything, to fix the housing problem in the United States. My home State of

Nevada leads the country in foreclosures. We understand what other States are starting to go through or just recently have been going through, and how severely it affects the economy. It is unfortunate that the stimulus bill that is supposed to fix the economy is not addressing the No. 1 problem we have in the United States.

LAS VEGAS TRAVEL

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, it seems as though reason and common sense are once again being tossed aside. I am referring to the recent remarks by President Obama when he singled out one of the most premiere cities in the world, Las Vegas.

When it comes to convenience and affordability, very few, if any, places in the world can compare to Las Vegas. It is home to more than 140,000 hotel rooms, millions of feet of meeting space, and a central geographic location that makes it easy for employees from around the country to come to meet.

It is no wonder so many businesses decide to have their conventions in Las Vegas. It is more than convenience, though. Las Vegas offers a value that is unique. For instance, the average hotel room today in Las Vegas is \$119 a night. That is why I find it disturbing that Las Vegas is being singled out.

It is more than that. Take Goldman Sachs as one example. First, it goes without saying that all companies that are receiving TARP funds must be responsible and not waste precious taxpayer dollars. Because of recent criticism, Goldman Sachs announced that it was moving a 3-day conference from Las Vegas to San Francisco. To do this though, they had to pay a \$600,000 cancellation fee, re-route flights, and re-book the same trip in another city, which is even more expensive than Las Vegas.

I ask, is that common sense? Let me repeat this. They had to pay more than a half million dollars in cancellation fees, re-route flights, and re-book the same trip in another, more expensive city. For what? So that Goldman can promote a false sense that it was spending the taxpayers' money more wisely. This is ridiculous. This is what the American people are sick of.

Is San Francisco a more affordable city than Las Vegas? Actually, it is much more expensive. I will shoot this straight. What Goldman Sachs did was purely a phony public relations gimmick, but it is not fooling anyone. The conference they booked in Las Vegas is still taking place. Now it is just much more expensive. This makes no sense at all. So let's cut to the chase.

Wherever these meetings take place, business takes place. Let me give you an example. The Consumer Electronics Show, known as CES: This is an annual business meeting in Las Vegas. CES attendees come to Las Vegas from over 140 countries around the world. They can conduct a year's worth of business